

Grammy Nominations. The Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) has awarded Jimmy Sturr its most valued award, the "Commendation of Excellence"—the only one ever awarded in the polka field. Voted the "Number One Polka Band in the Country" for the past ten years, their recordings have earned both "Album of the Year" status in the polka music industry.

With his many successes, Jimmy Sturr still lives in the house where he grew up, and his office is located across the street from the high school he attended in the upstate village of Florida, New York which has a population of 1,800.

America is a melting pot that celebrates the richness of the cultures within its borders. Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra bring this richness into our modern lives. As we dawn on the 21st Century, I take this unique opportunity to honor Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra for their accomplishments. I look forward to learning of their many more accomplishments in the future.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1996 TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, February 8, 1998 marked the second anniversary of the passage of Telecommunications Act of 1996. Though the Act was signed with great fanfare, the promised competition and lower rates for consumers have been slow to materialize.

Delays through court appeals and what have become unsurmountable regulatory hurdles for the Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) have cost millions of dollars and valuable time in giving customers more options through competition. With the passage of the Telecommunications Act, came the assurance of lower rates and greater choices through competition. Where is the competition? Where are the lower rates? Why aren't they here?

By significantly reforming regulations over the industry, the new law promised that competition would drive rates down, produce better services, higher quality and consumers would be given more options. Well after two years, it is about time that all the hard work put into passing the Act start to pay off. Constituents don't know what the fourteen point checklist entails. They don't know what a Sec. 271 application is or what forbearance means. Why should they? But, what they do know is that their rates aren't coming down. Their choices haven't changed. Now that has to change.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the FCC and DOJ to remove the stumbling blocks to true competition. It is time to allow the Act to do what Congress intended for it to do, tear down the barriers to competition. Allow the industries to compete in each others' market. Allow consumers to have a say in who will provide their services. The time has come to focus on encouraging new services in new markets, rather than trying to protect the status quo.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
SYLVESTER THADDEUS GILLESPIE

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of the Reverend Sylvester Thaddeus Gillespie as the Grace United Methodist Church prepares to honor his service to the congregation on July 13, 1998. So often we reserve our strongest accolades and expressions of love for persons after they have passed away. I would like to break with that tradition in honoring a great preacher of the Gospel, the shepherd of the flock that is Grace United Methodist Church.

Reverend Gillespie, born in Starkville, Mississippi, received his B.A. from Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi and his M.Div. from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He also attended the Command and General Staff College of the U.S. Army in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. From 1975 to 1995 Reverend Gillespie served as a U.S. Army chaplain, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was married to Barbara Bonney Gillespie, who passed away in 1994. Together they had two sons, Devokan and Damian.

In addition to serving as Army Chaplain, Reverend Gillespie has ministered to a number of congregations. These include Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Clearwater, Florida; John Wesley United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina; and the Wesley United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, California. In June 1991, he was appointed by Bishop Roy I. Sano to pastor Grace United Methodist Church.

Not only in Reverend Gillespie loved by his congregation at Grace Island, he is admired and respected by many others. He is often requested as a guest speaker by churches in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and for the Bishop Roy C. Nichols Preaching Series on Spiritual Renewal in Oakland, California. Just last year he received the Distinguished Leadership Citation for the development of a unique preaching/teaching ministry and church growth program from the Ebony Prophets of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

More than Reverend Gillespie's accomplishments as a minister, he is a compassionate man who always find time to comfort and assist those in need. He makes monthly visits to serve communion to shut-ins, lifts the spirits and prays with the hospital-bound, even spends time with members of his past congregations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our appreciation for Reverend Gillespie's great works.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commemorate one of the great Ameri-

cans of our century, Mr. Francis "Frank" Albert Sinatra. At the same time I rise to express the sadness that has befallen Palm Springs, the Nation and around the world. He was the son of immigrant parents, an entertainer, a humanitarian, a husband and a father, as well as a long-time resident of California and the City of Palm Springs. We mourn because we have lost someone who embodied so many of the traits that we admire—talent, triumph over adversity, friendship and caring.

"Ole' Blue Eyes" was the best at his craft, and we shall always remember him for this. He overcame his Depression-era roots in Hoboken, New Jersey to set the standard of excellence in many fields. His professional accomplishments are numerous and of legendary proportion. He starred in more than sixty films and recorded countless albums. His extraordinary talents were acknowledged in many ways. He won the Academy Award for his role in the 1953 film classic, *From Here to Eternity*. He won nine Grammy awards for his musical accomplishments. Certainly the most important reward for any performer is the love and respect he gets back from the audience. By the measure, Frank may have been the most successful entertainer in history. It was said that he had more than 2,000 fan clubs across the country.

People should also remember that he was devoted to numerous humanitarian and charitable causes, often without seeking the credit or publicity that he deserved. He lent his name as well as giving millions of dollars for a variety of very worthy causes including Desert Hospital, Catholic Charities and a Palm Springs celebrity golf tournament to help the victims of child abuse. In addition, one of the leading medical institutions of its kind is the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center which I am proud to say is located in and serves the Palm Springs and Desert Resort communities.

I was not a Member of Congress last year when this distinguished body voted to award him the Congressional Gold Medal. Nevertheless, I can attest that this was a fitting honor for a man of his high caliber. Now, as a Member, I wish to take this opportunity to send my deepest condolences to his wife Barbara, all of the children, and the entire Sinatra family at this most difficult time. Worldwide, the fans of one of the greatest entertainers of our time will carry memories of Frank with us always.

NAT BINGHAM, PACIFIC COAST VOYAGER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, recently, I received the news that Nat Bingham, Habitat Director for the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, had died in his Fort Bragg home. The loss of his life is a great loss for the many friends who knew and worked with Nat to protect threatened and endangered fisheries along our Pacific Coast. Nat's enthusiasm for his life's work was inspiring to all of us.

Nat was a most unusual human being. He was a fisherman who believed in sustainable fishing. Protecting fisheries from depletion